

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-13

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R 281716 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2248
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

UNCLAS LONDON 07500

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH REACTION TO NIXON- BREZHNEV SUMMIT

1. THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY TOLD THE HOUSE OF COMMONS JUNE 27 THAT HMG WELCOMED WITH SATISFACTION THE RESULTS OF THE NIXON- BREZHNEV MEETING, AND THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE WESTERN ALLIANCE SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN FULLY PROTECTED IN WHAT HAD BEEN SAID AND WRITTEN. HE CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT HIGH- SOUNDING DECLARATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE MATCHED BY POSITIVE ACTIONS AIMED AT SECURING PEACE, AND INDICATED THAT CSCE WOULD PROVE A TEST OF INTENTIONS. SIR ALEC' S COMMENTS WERE CONTAINED IN A WIDE- RANGING STATEMENT HE MADE TO INITIATE A TWO- DAY COMMONS DEBATE ON FOREIGN
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POLICY. THEY CONSTITUTED THE FIRST AUTHORITATIVE PUBLIC REACTION BY HMG TO THE US- SOVIET SUMMIT. THE OPPOSITION' S APPRAISAL OF THE SUMMIT, DUE TO BE DELIVERED BY SHADOW FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN TODAY, IS EXPECTED TO BE EQUALLY APPROVING.

2. THE BRITISH MEDIA HAVE GIVEN THE NIXON- BREZHNEV MEETING RELATIVELY MODEST COVERAGE (WATERGATE HAS ENJOYED FAR MORE), AND PRESS EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS BEEN MEAGER. THE " TIMES," JUNE 25, IN ITS SOLE EDITORIAL ON THE SUMMIT, THOUGHT BREZHNEV GOT THE BETTER OF THE " BARGAIN," BUT THAT ALL THINGS CONSIDERED IT WAS NOT AN UNFAIR BARGAIN. LIKE SIR ALEC, THE " TIMES" NOTED THAT THE AGREEMENTS REACHED WERE PRIMARILY " DECLARATIONS OF INTENT," AND THAT THEIR FULFILLMENT WOULD DEPEND ON " GOOD WILL, TRUST, AND OTHER UNPREDICTABLE FACTORS." THE " GUARDIAN," TOO, IN ITS SOLE EDITORIAL ON THE SUMMIT, WAS CAUTIOUS, NOTING DRILY THAT " THE TWO SUPERPOWERS STILL HAVE THEIR SPHERES OF INFLUENCE, THEIR CLIENTS, AND THEIR SATELLITES," AND THAT " THE WORLD' S TWO GREAT BARONS INTEND TO CONTINUE TO BE BARONS, AT LEAST IN THEIR OWN TERRITORIES."

ANNENBERG

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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